Security Lapses in Indian Airlines

1220. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 30th December, 1999 captioned "IA lacks proper security checks";

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures proposed to ensure proper security in the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ground security procedures mentioned in the press report prevailing in foreign countries are also applied in respect of Indian Airlines flights depending upon threat perception.

(c) The following measures have been taken for the safety of the air passengers including those of Indian Airlines:

(i) Deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel in place of State Police for security duties at the operational airports in a phased manner. The CISF has already taken over the security duties at Patna, Jaipur, Guwahati, Vadodara and Port Blair Airports.

(ii) Frisking of passengers and hand baggage at the time of entry into sterile area has been tightened. Ladder point secondary frisking has been introduced.

(iii) Strict control on access to the airports is being ensured by comprehensive review of photo-identity cards to restrict the number of pass holders and banning of entry of the visitors upto 31.3.2000.

(iv) Deployment of sky marshal on flights at random basis as an added safety precaution.

(v) Raising of the perimeter wall to the prescribed height at all the operational airports.

(vi) Replacement of old X-Ray machines and installation of new colour X-Ray machines wherever necessary so as to ensure that at least 2 X-Ray machines are available at every point.

(vii) Modernisation and upgradation of security related technological set up of the airports is being done in a phased manner.

(viii) Operational staff of Indian Airlines have been sensitized to the increased threat perception to Indian Airlines flights.

Expansion of Air Services in U.P.

†1221. PROF. RAM BAKHSH SINGH VARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities in Uttar Pradesh from where Air Services are operated;

(b) what are the details of the remaining cities which are proposed to be connected by Air Services during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the funds allocated for the same?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Agra, Dehradun, Lucknow and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh are connected by air services of the Scheduled Airlines.

(b) and (c) Operators are free to operate on any route/to any place in their commercial judgement subject to compliance with the Route Dispersal Guidelines which provide for certain minimum operations on various category of routes.

Formation of Airports Regulatory Board

1222. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to constitute the Airports Regulatory Board;

(b) if so, what is the purpose of the same and how is it going to help better functioning of the Airports all over the country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that Airports Authority of India will become redundant or there will be duplication of Authority and create more Red Tapism in that case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) In the context of possible privatisation of airports in the country, the Government has received a suggestion to create a regulatory framework for airports independent of Directorate General of Civil Aviation. No concrete decision has so far been taken.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.